

CATSKILL TUBE RUINS BUILDERS

Three Firms Put Out of
Business Since the
Work Began.

BLAME SCARCE LABOR
Increased Cost of Materials
Also Has Caused Heavy
Losses.

CITY GETS A BARGAIN
Contractors Forced to Continue
the Work of the System
Below the Cost.

When at last Catskill water flows out of the tap for your morning tub perhaps the ghosts of dead contractors will come out and haunt you. If they don't it will be because the contractors knew they took the chances of the business, and the chances turned against them. For the Catskill aqueduct is checked with the bones of unprofitable contractors and here and there the skeletons of firms that went out of business thereby.

Three of the big contractors for making the pipe line which will bring Catskill water to the five boroughs are now being pushed through by receivers for defunct firms. Another firm has undergone a reorganization. Another would have gone to the wall if it hadn't had strong friends among the bankers. Other contractors have entailed heavy losses and the work is being carried out as a matter of honor and because the firms are big enough to stand hardships.

Charles Strauss, president of the Board of Water Supply, which is putting through a work that stands with the Panama Canal and the new subway systems as one of the greatest feats of engineering of all times, told *The Sun* the other day why it is that the contractors have fared so badly. Putting it in a word, the losses resulted from the great advances in the cost of contractors' materials. The Board of Water Supply made its contracts according to the so-called unit system, under which the contractor supplies this and that material at so much a barrel or a ton and engages to dig out so much of a certain kind of rock or earth at so much a cubic yard. With the increase in the cost of labor and the advance in the prices of materials the contractors have to stick by their original bids, and their losses pile up.

Contracts Below Estimates.
It has been suggested that many contractors went to work for the city thinking that the Board of Water Supply would be easy in figuring the items in the contractors' bills, that the inspectors for the board would pass earth excavation once in a while as rock excavation with increased return to the contractors, that they would slip in an allowance for a few extra hundred barrels of cement or for a certain number of hundred yards of pipe laid in a cut and let it be put in as tunnel work.

But under the administration of J. Waldo Smith, chief engineer, and his deputy, Merritt H. Smith, that kind of figuring has not been allowed. A check of the contracts shows that most of them are running far below the estimates. Not do most of the contractors look for favoritism.

The result of all this is that New York is getting its aqueduct at a price actually below cost. When the work is done and the final figures are tallied New Yorkers will find that their water is coming from the Catskill Mountains through a tube which was built at a bargain, far cheaper than if the city had employed its own labor and bought its own materials.

The explanation of the whole affair was made by Mr. Strauss in his office at 65 Broadway.

"The policy of the board," he said, "has been to secure the very best character of work under its contracts at the lowest possible cost. This has been accomplished by a painstaking preparation of the minutest details of every section of the work in the specifications, which accompany every contract, and by compelling bidders to bid unit prices based upon the specific details of the contracts."

"This prevented the possibility of any misunderstanding of the contracts themselves or of any variance in interpretation, with the result that the Board of Water Supply was enabled in practically every case to award the contract to the lowest bidder."

Little Price Maintained.

"The contractor runs the risk in every case where the performance of the contract extends over several years, as most of our contracts do, of any variation in the price of materials as he bids the unit price. If it should turn out that the market price of the material during the operation of the contract becomes lessened the contractor would naturally get the benefit. If, on the other hand, the prices rise the unit price remains firm nevertheless, and that is precisely what has happened on this work, without exception, on every one of the contracts."

"While this work has been in progress other great works have been undertaken or projected—the construction of the barge canal, the bridges across the rivers, the New York and East River tunnels, the subway, the \$10,000,000 of new roads throughout the State. All these and many others of minor importance have contributed to create a demand for the very labor and materials which enter into our work. The result is that the lowest bid price has remained an absolute minimum."

"The Board of Water Supply hopes that all of its contractors may realize a reasonable profit on the important contributions of work they have made to the general undertakings. But judging from personal reports received from them from time to time only a very few of them will be found in that class without doubt a number of them will show an actual loss."

"The reason for this is not far to seek. With an increase in the whole price of cement and other materials which largely go into our work, and the very great scarcity of labor, which all public contractors have been complaining for a very long period past, the unit prices have increased with ab-

WHAT'S IN A NAME

There is one name in the banking business, one name in the jewelry business, one name in the mail order business, one name in the pickle business, and one name in most businesses which, in the popular opinion, is the representative name in its particular field.

There is such a name in the building business, too.
THOMPSON-STARRETT COMPANY
Building Construction

absolute disregard of the bid prices, which remain of course absolutely untouched by passing events.

Heavy Preparatory Expenses.
"Moreover, each one of the contractors before he was actually in shape to commence work was compelled to establish an organization, mostly in inaccessible places. Along the lines of the aqueduct for the most part are only little villages with few accommodations for wayfarers. This compelled the preparation of sites for towns, the building of houses where employees can live and in a number of cases where the employees were numerous provision for hospitals, water supply, sewerage systems, schools and other incidentals of a settled community. It must be remembered that this had to be done before the work of construction could be begun at all."

Mr. Strauss gave as an example the village which has been built at Brown's Station, near the site of the great Ashokan reservoir. The contractors for this section of the aqueduct are MacArthur Bros. and Winston & Co. They had to clear away the virgin forest and on a plot of 200 acres establish a model town for about 3,000 laborers. H. S. Kerbaugh & Co. have done a similar job at the site of the Kensico dam, north of White Plains.

"In addition to this," Mr. Strauss went on, "on large contracts it is not unusual to invest \$1,000,000 in plant to order to enable the contractor to do the work. At the site of the Ashokan reservoir, where we are building the largest reservoir in the world, the contractor has established an entire system of railway communication between different parts of the work at very great cost."

"All this investment, towns, railway and all paraphernalia, must be removed on the completion of the work, as every inch will be inundated by water."

Would Pay to Abandon Work.

So great has been the loss on some of the contracts—which ones Mr. Strauss would not say—that a few of the contractors would gladly pay for the privilege of getting out now.

The firms which have gone into receivership are the Elmore & Hamilton Contracting Company of Albany, Patterson & Co. of Pittsburgh and the Thomas McNally Contracting Company of Pittsburgh.

The Elmore & Hamilton Company had two jobs, one for \$233,500 at Walkkill, Ulster county, and another at Arden, Westchester county, amounting to \$1,483,150. The firm went into a receivership on January 24, 1911. The cause assigned at the time was that the company had spent so much in plant and quarries that it used up its working capital. Its work has been carried on by Augustus N. Hand and Stephen L. Seiden, 49 Wall street.

Patterson & Co. had the job of building the Bull Hill tunnel in Putnam county, near Cold Spring. The amount of the contract was \$24,942. But when the work was completed by the receivers and the city paid the last bill only \$24,642. The work was wound up by the receivers, Benjamin Barker and James G. Shaw of 115 Broadway.

Thomas McNally came here from Pittsburgh in 1907 and satisfied Comptroller Metz of his financial responsibility. He put in the lowest bid for a portion of the Peckskill division, and his contract amounted to \$4,126,423. It developed that the firm was composed of McNally, his wife and a clerk. The report at the time was that McNally had engaged the interest of Timothy D. Sullivan.

Two Extensions Granted.

McNally began his work on time, but it soon began to lag, and he found that he couldn't complete it on time. He got two extensions under his contract. But his troubles multiplied. One day a salesman for the Georgia-Florida Lumber Company went to his office and offered to sell some Georgia pine. McNally said he needed some but didn't have any money to pay for it. The salesman told him to go and see the boss. William E. Paine, president of the lumber company, offered to lend him \$200,000 provided he have a share in the profits.

All this money and \$50,000 more went into the tunnel of Westchester and Putnam, and McNally found himself in trouble again. Paine refused more help and he went to the wall. Ex-Gov. Odell and Mr. Paine were named as receivers. A sub-contractor, whose bid was \$819,600, struck a glacial shelf in the heart of one of the mountains, picked up the work and found that to continue cost three or four times as much as he had figured. When he got through the glacial shelf he struck quicksand.

Odell wanted Paine to put up some more money, but Paine balked, and friction developed between the receivers. At last Paine offered to take over all the sub-contracts provided Mr. Odell got out and leave him sole receiver. A suit to oust Odell from the charge that he undertook to sell some material supplied to the contractors by Mr. Paine's firm is still pending.

COURT UPHOLDS RECEIVERS.

Former Decision Is Affirmed in
Thomas McNally Case.

WHITE PLAINS, N. Y., March 2.—A decision of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court will be filed in the Westchester County Clerk's office at White Plains to-morrow unanimously affirming the decision of Justice Arthur S. Tompkins of Nyack in the appointment of two receivers for the Thomas McNally Company, which had secured the contract for a \$4,000,000 section of the Catskill aqueduct.

Bomb Explodes in Movie Theatre.

A bomb exploded in the entrance to the Novelty Moving Picture Theatre at 214 Bowery early yesterday morning. The ticket booth and a door were smashed. The police were unable to learn any reason for the outrage.

HERNANDEZ TO FIGHT GOMEZ IN VENEZUELA

Will Start a New Revolt if President Is Elected Again
Next Fall.

HAS HIS EYE ON CASTRO
Ex-Dictator Cannot Expect the
Support of the People.
He Says.

Gen. Jose Manuel Hernandez, who ten years ago was Venezuelan Minister to the United States but who now is a revolutionist, yesterday told reporters at the Hotel Empire just how he will start his revolt against the Government of President Gomez. He gave out pages of statements, including a list of twenty-one "most pressing reforms which should be established in Venezuela to attain her moral peace and material welfare."

Gen. Hernandez has his weather eye out for all the movements of Gen. Castro, Venezuela's former dictator, and any significant move on the latter's part will have instant effect on Gen. Hernandez's plans. If Castro goes to Venezuela, Gen. Hernandez said he would embark at once for the same place.

Hernandez bears no love for Castro, for the latter at one time kept him in prison for three years and gave him nothing much to eat but bread and water. He made it clear yesterday that he was not worrying over which of the two, himself or Castro, would receive the popular support of the Venezuelans. He said he knew his own prestige and popularity was enough to guarantee his success and expects a part of the army to come to his standard when he lands.

Gen. Hernandez said that he would never take sides with Castro against Gomez. They might both fight the present Government, but when it was overthrown they would have each other to reckon with, and in that fight Hernandez knew who the victor would be. He said he would not be a candidate for the Presidency, but will remain here until after election. He intimated that if he is not elected he will know that the election had not shown the will of the people. In this case he will take steps to secure them of another chance to vote for him.

Gen. Hernandez said that his motive for wanting to take a hand in the affairs of his country is to give its people a free representative government. He said he will guarantee the right of suffrage to all citizens.

He pointed with pride to a clause in his list of reforms in which he declared himself against all forms of grafting by public officials. He said that he would make grafting illegal, and that he would be the first President who would punish grafting officials.

"All students of republics will agree," he said, "that the confidence which comes to my lips will be easily answered by the Democrats, as I propose to do toward Latin America and the United States. The morning papers attach considerable importance to this incident."

Promoted by the Pope.

Special Cable Dispatch to *The Sun*.
ROME, March 2.—The Pope has promoted Mgr. Vincenzo Misuraca to the rank of First Secretary of a Nunciature and appointed him auditor of the Papal delegation at Washington.

ROBBED OF \$43,000, SHE SAYS.

Mrs. Mills Found Unconscious: Says She Was Hit on Head.

CHICAGO, March 2.—Mrs. Mabel Mills of San Antonio, who says she is the wife of a wealthy real estate man of the Texas city, is in an Evanston hospital to-night seriously injured as the result of a robbery by two men, who got \$43,000 from her handbag.

Mrs. Mills went to dinner last night at the home of Mrs. H. S. Stevens in Evanston and after leaving there says she took a cab for the Congress Hotel, where she is staying. She found she had lost a purse containing \$1,500 at Mrs. Stevens' house and went to get it. She lost her way apparently and several hours afterward was found on the stoop of a house almost unconscious from a blow on the head.

The handbag was found on the ground some distance away, but the money was gone. She has not been able to tell what happened to her.

BOY STRANGELY SHOT.

Goes Home and Tells of Two Mysterious Men.

Bleeding from a bullet wound which had pierced his nose, cheek and right eye, Frederick de Voer, 16 years old, of 2081 Arthur avenue, staggered into the home of his aunt, Mrs. Kate Sherry, and fell unconscious in the midst of her guests, who were having a party.

Young de Voer said that he was on the way to his aunt's home at 1312 Union avenue, when he was passing a vacant lot at Boston road and Jennings street he heard some men quarreling. He went over to see what the trouble was and according to his story one of the men shot him. No trace of the men was found.

ON NEW NICKEL WILL STAY.

Designer Fraser Says His Initial Was Approved.

There is no possibility of the Mint recalling the new nickel and making different dies, according to a statement made yesterday by James Earl Fraser, designer of the coin.

Mr. Fraser, who is a New York sculptor with a studio at 3 Macdougall alley, gave this information in answer to the criticism which the coin has aroused because it possessed a tiny capital "F" worked into the design immediately under the numerals 1913.

Mr. Fraser declares that there can be no investigation into the incident connected with the Lincoln cent. This cent, the work of Victor D. Brenner, was withdrawn as the result of a complaint that the initials on it and new dies were made eliminating that feature. The designer of the new nickel said that his coin has the approval of all the authorities.

It was asked to submit a design for the new five cent piece, but he said he had no work was accepted. The Secretary of the Mint assured him that the coin was entirely satisfactory and all. Not only that, but the National Art Commission approved it.

REPAIRING BRITISH EMBASSY.

Government's Home in Paris Is Just 193 Years Old.

PARIS, Feb. 21.—The British Embassy in Paris is at present without a tenant because the old building in which the embassy is housed is sadly in need of repairs. Sir Francis Bertie, who, by the way, is the dean of the diplomatic corps here, has had to take up temporary quarters elsewhere until his place of business is repaired.

The embassy building is exactly 193 years old and, what is something rare for a building in Paris, it has changed proprietors only three times. These proprietors were the Charost family, Princess Borghese and the British Government. The building, which was the tutor of Louis XV., built the house in 1720, at a time when the truck gardens of the Faubourg St. Honore were beginning to give place to luxurious buildings. This house, to-day the embassy, was one of the first in this section, the Hotel d'Evreux, now the Elisee Palace, being constructed eight years later.

In 1801, when the Duc de Charost died, the building remained for a long time unoccupied until Pauline Bonaparte, widow of the unfortunate Gen. Leclerc, came to occupy it, and she gave there some superb entertainments, which made her invitations among the most sought after. The Princess was compelled to sell the home in 1815, after Waterloo, and then the British Government purchased it.

SWISS TAX ON FOREIGNERS.

Children Born There Must Be Naturalized, Is Proposed Law.

BERNE, Feb. 19.—There is a new law projected in Switzerland which has for its purpose the obligatory naturalization of children of foreigners who have settled in Switzerland. The proposed law would have wide-sweeping effect and it is likely that it will come into force.

In 1859 the population of Switzerland was 2,302,740, of whom only 71,570 were foreigners, or a ratio of 3 per cent. of the total. In the last census, of 1910, the total population was 2,741,971, while the foreigner population has increased to 565,296, or 15 per cent. of the total. The number of foreigners attracted by the many advantages of life in Switzerland is increasing every year and it is to enable the Government to derive some benefit from this increase that the new law has been proposed.

FINE LIBRARY TO BE SOLD.

Earl of Crawford's Collection Will Be Auctioned.

LONDON, March 3.—The library of the late Earl of Crawford, which contained the finest private collection in Great Britain, according to a story in the *Morning Post*, is likely to be dispersed in a short time at public auction.

It is notable among other things for examples of the earliest Italian and English books.

He bequeathed the philatelic section of his library to the nation and it is rumored that the entire library may become a national possession.

ANGLO-FRENCH CONFERENCE.

Marine Minister Goes to Toulon to Meet Churchill.

PARIS, March 3.—Pierre Haudin, the Minister of Marine, has gone to Toulon to meet Winston Churchill, the First Lord of the British Admiralty. The morning papers attach considerable importance to this incident.

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SAYS TURKS ARE ON VERGE OF DISASTER

Union and Progress Committee
Now Willing to Accept
Any Terms.

HAS MADE A "VOLTE FACE"
Adrianople and Egean Islands
to Be Signed Away to
Allies.

Special Cable Dispatch to *The Sun*.
LONDON, March 3.—There is confirmation from many important sources of the report that in regard to the peace negotiations Turkey is putting herself in the hands of the Powers. So far as is known the Porte has not yet embodied a request of this kind in the form of an official note, but through the Ambassadors at the capital the Powers have been asked unreservedly for mediation.

The *Daily Telegraph's* correspondent at Vienna in confirming this statement says the Turks are now decidedly worse off than when Kiamil Pasha, the former Grand Vizier, accepted the proposal of the Powers in regard to the surrender of Adrianople and the submission of the question of the Egean Islands to the European Governments.

This writer says: "The Young Turks, however, accused Kiamil Pasha of treason and foully assassinated their own friend, Nazim Pasha. They declared that they wouldcede neither Adrianople nor the Islands. To-day, however, they are suing abjectly for the intercession of the Powers and are offering in return not only Adrianople and the Islands, but also, independent of the will of the Ottoman State, they are undertaking in advance to accept unhesitatingly any terms which Christian Europe thinks fit to make for them."

"No such self-abasing decision has ever been taken by a normal nation since the first chapter of European history was written. No wonder the reform party and the Military League are moving heaven and earth to put a speedy and definitive end to a regime which has brought the Ottoman Empire and the Turkish race to such a hopeless plight."

The writer says he is informed from authorized Turkish sources that the civil administration and the army are honeycombed with conspiracies. The Cabinet, which when peace is concluded and Adrianople signed away, if not before, will be swept from the political scene and those responsible for the national disaster will receive condign punishment. Other and more formidable dangers will be created in Syria, where a home rule movement is being started.

This writer is equally severe in his criticisms of the allies, especially Bulgaria, for in a foolhardy way rejecting the advice of the Powers, and the Bulgarians, he says, will now have to forego their hopes of dictating terms to the Turks and will have to place themselves in the hands of the Powers.

SHEVKET WANTS TO RESIGN.

Serious Conspiracy in Constantinople Against the Government.

Special Cable Dispatch to *The Sun*.
LONDON, March 3.—Despatches from Constantinople by an indirect route state that Mahmud Shevket Pasha, the Grand Vizier, is eager to quit his dangerous post. He offered the succession to Hilmi Pasha, the Turkish Ambassador at Vienna, but this diplomat refused to accept the post. A number of prominent men have sent telegrams to Kiamil Pasha, the former Grand Vizier, who is in Egypt, asking him to return.

Various details of the latest plot against the Government at Constantinople which are leaking out show that it was in the nature of a serious conspiracy. The murder of Nazim Pasha seems to be still the cause of bitter feeling among his followers and is really the mainspring of the movement against the Young Turks.

BULGARS FIRE ON STEAMER.

Italian and French Ships Struck—British Escape.

Special Cable Dispatch to *The Sun*.
CONSTANTINOPLE, March 2.—The Bulgarian artillerymen at Charkeui fired to-day on several passing steamers. An Italian ship was so seriously damaged that it was necessary to beach her. The French steamer *Fraissinet* received a shot on the bridge. Another shot just missed a British vessel.

The captain of the French steamer *Suzette* reports that his vessel was fired on by the Bulgarian batteries when she was three miles off Charkeui. The ship was flying the French colors at the time. The vessel was hit by one of the shots.

The captain will lodge a protest with the French Foreign Office, which will forward it to the Bulgarian Government.

AUSTRIA TO INCREASE ARMY.

Will Follow Lead of France, Germany and Russia.

Special Cable Dispatch to *The Sun*.
VIENNA, March 2.—It is said that in consequence of the provisions for increases in the military establishments of Germany, France and Russia the Austrian Government has decided to call out 30,000 additional men every year.

JAPAN MAY JOIN CHINA.

Dr. Sun's Visit to Tokio May Result in Combination.

Special Cable Dispatch to *The Sun*.
TOKIO, March 2.—The nominally unofficial mission here of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, the first provisional President of China, will end on Monday. He has made frequent public utterances, which have created the belief that he is actually an emissary of President Yuan Shih-kai for the purpose of promoting cooperation between China and Japan in the commercial and political development of China and the maintenance of peace in the Orient.

Since his arrival here Dr. Sun Yat-sen has had important interviews with statesmen, bankers and manufacturers. It is reported that Dr. Sun Yat-sen has arranged a Sino-Japanese syndicate with a capital of \$5,000,000 to build railways.

B. Altman & Co.

announce for this day (Monday)
an Exceptional Sale of Women's
Afternoon and Evening Dresses
at \$38.00

Also Women's Afternoon Dresses
at \$22.00

Also for this day (Monday)
Special Sales of

Women's Coats and Hosiery,
Infants' and Little Children's
Spring Coats, Children's Tailored
Coats, All-wool Tailor Serges
in black and navy blue, Colored
Dress Linens and Imported
Linen Crash Suitings.

Fifth Avenue, 34th and 35th Streets, New York.

1% Per MONTH UPON PLEDGE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

THE PROVIDENT LOAN SOCIETY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN	BROOKLYN
Fourth Avenue cor. 25th Street	Courtlandt Ave. cor. 148th Street
Eldridge Street cor. Rivington Street	Graham Avenue cor. Debevoise St.
Seventh Ave. bet. 48th and 49th Sts.	Pittkin Avenue cor. Rockaway Ave.
Lexington Ave. cor. 124th Street	
Grand Street cor. Clinton Street	
East 72d St., bet. Lexington & 3d Aves.	
East Houston St., cor. Essex St.	

PERCENT CHARGED UPON LOANS. REPAID WITHIN TWO WEEKS FROM DATE.

DIAZ RULE SURE IN MEXICO AGAIN

Continued from First Page.

which was promised by Madero but never even started.

Public instruction is to become a prominent feature of the new Government's propaganda. The exigencies of the situation demand speedy action in the matter of securing the loan and leave no time for the consideration of anything but the principal objects in view.

The article of the *Mill* dealing with indemnities says the Government has reason to believe now that the total amount of claims will be less than was anticipated. At present the demands presented reach about 50,000,000 pesos, of which a portion, amounting to about 10,000,000, has been revised by a commission appointed for that purpose. In addition the payment of 5,000,000 has been repudiated as unjust.

If this proposition holds good throughout the consideration of all the indemnities, the total claims will be materially reduced. The majority of them are for domestic matters, but 3,000,000 pesos is asked as indemnity by the Chinese republic for the 300 Chinese who were slaughtered in Toluca during the Madero revolution. This, it is believed, will be paid.

Former Minister of Communications Manuel Bonilla was arrested to-day in Mazatlan. He was the man who paroled a number of Madero sympathizers shortly after he was transferred from the Ministry of Communications to the portfolio of Internal Affairs.

The charge against Bonilla is that he broke his personal parole, instigated rebellion in Sinaloa and mismanaged the Communications Department. He will be brought to the capital to answer these accusations.

Uncertainty still exists in regard to the attitude of Gov. Carranza of Coahuila. His emissaries here continue to assert his loyalty to Huerta and say that he served Madero because the previous Government paid him 200,000 pesos monthly for the maintenance of 2,000 State troops under Col. Guadalupe. These men declare that the Governor keeps this force armed simply to preserve order and is willing to turn them over to Gen. Huerta at any time if they are promised Federal pay.

Despite these declarations the Government remains distrustful of Carranza, claiming to have proof that his revolutionary agents have reached Zacatecas and are fomenting disturbances there and at other nearby points. The War Minister continues to rush troops into Coahuila with his most trusted Generals in command.

Gen. Aguilar leaves the capital to-night to proceed against the bandits in Oaxaca Puebla. He proposes to garison the towns in the afflicted district with his newly formed brigade of former rebels. His policy toward the bandits will be to exterminate them as was done in the time of Porfirio Diaz. Aguilar was a great figure in those days and gained a reputation by his merciless treatment of the lawless men who infested the mountainous districts.

Tumors have been started here by Morelos planters that Gov. Pacifico Leyva of that State has declared against the Huerta Government and has garisoned the town of Cuernavaca with a small force. The general impression is that this report is false. One of the principal demands of the Zapatistas was the removal of Leyva from the Government, but President Huerta refused to take this step and for that

EXPERT TO EXAMINE SEWER ICE.

Knickerbocker Company Learns of It Through "The Sun."

For the last three days the Knickerbocker Ice Company, formerly the American Ice Company, has been receiving eight and ten carloads of ice from the Trout Brook Ice and Feed Company of Hartford.

Following yesterday's article in *The Sun*, which told of the harvesting of this ice from Greenwood reservoir emptied into by the open sewer of Winsted, Conn., President Wesley M. Oler of the New York Ice company said that the company's bacteriologist, Prof. John C. Sparks, would examine the ice.

"We should not have done so but for your article," said Mr. Oler last night, "as we had no reason to believe that the ice being delivered to us was impure. We buy outside only when there is a short crop. As I recollect, we have bought from this company only once before, in 1909. At that time the most careful bacteriological tests convinced us that it was pure."

"I have no reason to suppose that there has been any change. I understood that their ice came from the Trout Brook and have never heard of Greenwood reservoir. Our bacteriologist, Prof. Sparks, who is also an expert for the Department of Water Supply, will investigate to-morrow morning, however."

"The ice does not go into consumption until the summer," he said.

"No, we do not take their entire output," he replied to a question.

The Trout Brook company last week advertised for 100 additional men and has orders for every pound of ice it can harvest.

At the Department of Health yesterday, although Commissioner Lederer and Sanitary Superintendent Walter Benes could not be found, Assistant Sanitary Superintendent Alonzo P. Blauvelt said that as a matter of department routine any alleged impurity of ice coming in for city consumption would receive investigation.

Mad River empties into Greenwood reservoir, where the ice is now being harvested, after a flow of between six and seven miles. It runs through the centre of Winsted, a distance of about two miles, and into it goes all the city's refuse matter.